

Message Text

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12

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 IO-14 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 L-03 NSC-07 PA-04 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

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R 231505Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TOHRUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 9665

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY MWDRID

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION NATO

CINCLANT

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL OPORTO UNN

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA UNN

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 2074

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, PO

SUBJ: PORTUGUESE LABOR ORGANIZATIONS

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SUMMARY: CONTROL OF INDUSTRIAL AND SERVICE SECTOR SYNDICATES BY PCP NOW APPEARS FIRM, AND PCP IS WORKING TO INFLUENCE DEVELOPMENTS IN AGRICULTURE AND CIVIL SERVICE SECTORS WHERE NO SYNDICATES PREVIOUSLY EXISTED. IF PORTUGUESE REPRESENTATIVES SHOW UP AT COPENHAGEN ETUC MEETING, THEY CERTAIN TO WORK CLOSELY WITH OTHER ORTHODOX COMMUNIST REPRESENTATIVES, INCLUDING REPRESENTATIVES OF CLANDESTINE SPANISH GROUPS. END SUMMARY.

1. EVENTS IN AFTERMATH OF APRIL 25 COUP REVEALED EFFECTIVE COMMUNIST PARTY CONTROL OF MANY MAJOR SYNDICATES IN INDUSTRIAL AND WHITE COLLAR SECTORS. PCP ELEMENTS TOOK OVER SOME OTHER SYNDICATES IN THESE SECTORS BY HAVING THEMSELVES "ELECTED" TO COMMISSIONS WHICH SEIZED CONTROL OF SYNDICATE FACILITIES AND PROCLAIMED THEMSELVES NEW LEADERS. MANIPULATION BY PCP ELEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES OF "INTERSINDICAL", EMBRYONIC NATIONAL LABOR FEDERATION, SUGGESTS PCP HAD PRIOR CONTROL OF INTZRSINDICAL AND INDICATES PREVIOUS LIAISON WITH WFTU. STRUCTURE OF EXISTING SYNDICATES WAS SUBJECT TO MANIPULATION FROM THE TOP, MAKING THEM IDEAL FOR PCP'S PURPOSES. WE KNOW OF NO SERIOUS EFFORT BY OTHER POLITICAL GROUPS TO RESIST TREND DESCRIBED ABOVE ALTHOUGH SOCIALIST PARTY OFFICIALS HAVE ACKNOWLEDGED NEED FOR SUCH ACTION ON THEIR PART. SOCIALIST PARTY REPS VISIBLY IDENTIFIED WITH LABOR AFFAIRS, HOWEVER, ARE NOT DISTINGUISHABLE IN OUR VIEW FROM COMMUNISTS AND MAY EVEN BE COMMUNISTS. IN ANY CASE, GAME IS OVER, AT LEAST UNTIL SUCH TIME, IF EVER, AS NEW LABOR LEGISLATION PROVIDES POSSIBILITY FOR RESTORATION OF DEMOCRACY IN EXISTING SYNDICATES.

2. IN AGRICULTURAL SECTOR, WHICH HAS ABOUT 30 PERCENT OF WORK FORCE, AND IN CIVIL SERVICE, WHICH HAS ABOUT 10 PCT, THERE ARE NO EXISTING LABOR INSTITUTIONS, NOT EVEN ON PAPER, FOR COMMUNISTS TO TAKE OVER. SOME "HOUSES OF THE PEOPLE," RECREATIONAL AND WELFARE CENTERS IN COUNTRYSIDE, HAVE BEEN SEIZED BY LOCAL COMMISSIONS
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ACTING AS DESCRIBED ABOVE, BUT WZ UNABLE TO JUDGE IMPORTANCE OF THOSE MOVES. CIVIL SERVANTS HAVE BZEN MEETING IN PATCHWORK FASHION AND AT DIFFERENT LEVELS FOR PURPOSES OF ESTABLISHING A SYNDICATE OR SYNDICATES. THUS FAR, HOWEVER, THERE IS NO CONSENSUS ON WHETHER THERE SHOULD BE A SINGLE CIVIL SERVICE SYNDICATE OR SEVERAL PROFESSIONAL ONES. SIX-HOUR MEETING OF SEVERAL THOUSAND CIVIL SERVANTS HELD IN LISBON GYMNASIUM MAY 19 FAILED

TO REACH ANY AGREEMENT ON ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS AND SPENT 2 HOURS ON QUESTION OF WHO SHOULD BE REPRESENTED AT HEAD TABLE. HOWEVER, PRESS REPORTS NOTE THREE DECISIONS ALL FAVORABLE TO COMMUNIST INTERESTS:

A) MINUTE OF SILENCE IN MEMORY OF CATARINA EUFEMIA, TEEN-AGE COMMUNIST PARTY MEMBER KILLED 20 YEARS AGO BY POLICE;

B) ACCEPTANCE OF A PAPER PRESENTED BY COMMUNIST-DOMINATED DEMOCRATIC ELECTORAL COMMISSION (CDE) ON "SOCIO-PROFESSIONAL" BASIS OF CIVIL SERVANTS;

C) TRANSFER OF ALL FUTURE SINDICAL ACTIVITIES OF CIVIL SERVANTS TO HEADQUARTERS OF INTERSINDICAL.

3. PCP MEMBER CANAIS ROCHA HAS ANNOUNCED PLANS FOR NATIONAL WORKERS' CONGRESS TO BE HELD IN LATE SUMMER TO PLAN RESTORING UNITY OF PORTUGUESE LABOR MOVEMENT SO THAT WORKERS THEMSELVES MAY DETERMINE TERMS OF FUTURE LABOR LEGISLATION. ROCHA IS KEY FIGURE IN INTERSINDICAL.

4. WE EXPECT PORTUGUESE COMMUNISTS FROM INTERSINDICAL TO TURN UP AT ETUC MEETING IN COPENHAGEN NEXT WEEK, ON BASIS OF INVITATION PROMISED BY JEORGES DEBUNNE OF BELGIAN FGTB. ON BASIS OF PREVIOUS CONTACTS BETWEEN PORTUGUESE AND SPANISH LABOR ACTIVISTS AND GIVEN WARM RECEPTION ACCORDED WFTU DELEGATION AT INTERSINDICAL, WE EXPECT PORTUGUESE TO WORK CLOSELY WITH COMMUNISTS, PARTICULARLY THE SPANISH. WE HOPE NON-COMMUNISTS AT ETUC ARE AWARE FACT THAT PORTUGUESE REPS HOLD THEIR POSITIONS BY VIRTUE OF INHERITANCE OR SEIZURE OF INSTITUTIONS OF "FASCIST" REGIME THEY SURE TO DEPLORE. IT WOULD BE MAJOR VICTORY FOR THOSE WHO HOPE FOR DEMOCRATIC LABOR INSTITUTIONS IN
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PORTUGAL IF INTERNATIONAL ACCEPTANCE OF THOSE WHO CLAIM TO SPEAK FOR PORTUGUESE LABOR WERE DELAYED UNTIL OLD INSTITUTIONS HAD BEEN DISMANTLED AND NEW LEADERS ELECTED UNDER LABOR LEGISLATION WHICH HAS DEMOCRATIC SAFEGUARDS. FURTHER, IF PORTUGUESE REPS CAN BE PREVENTED FROM GAINING ASSISTANCE IN ORGANIZING AGRICULTURAL AND CIVIL SERVICE WORKERS, NON-COMMUNISTS WILL HAVE A GREATER CHANCE FOR INFLUENCING DEVELOPMENT IN THOSE SECTORS. SCOTT

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